

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
August 7, 2014

Mr. White called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were David White, Charles Tirone, Michelle Durocher, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, and Susan Chapnick of the Commission. Nathaniel Stevens, Catherine Garnett, Janine White, and Mike Nonni of the Commission, were not present. Also present were Mike Tabaczynski, Keith Ohmart, Gail McCormick and Karen Grossman.

7:45pm – Commission Business:

Chapnick/Connors motioned to approve the 7/10 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Beckwith reported that she had input from DEP in regards to **residential water withdrawal** for landscaping from waterfront parcels. The DEP recommends that the applicant file an RDA with project details described thoroughly and if necessary, the project can be elevated to an NOI if the proposal is more complicated. A few members raised concern over potential bacterial contamination from surface waters. DEP has set daily withdrawal limits from surface water bodies at excess of 100,000 gallons/day.

8pm **Discussion** – Spy Pond Condos pesticide application

Ms. McCormick notified the Commission that their shoreline shrubs are infested with various insects. They have investigated a non-pesticide treatment for this, a horticultural oil. The Commission reviewed the product label information and asked details of the application procedure. The oil is sprayed on twice a year, by a hand held, back pack sprayer, not during a windy day and not directly over the water.

The Commission expressed concern that the oil, even though non-toxic, should not go into the water and asked that the application be done in such a manner as to prevent that from happening, perhaps with a tarp or some other approach. Ms. McCormick said she would ask the contractor, who is also a licensed applicator, to take appropriate precautions.

The Commission will draft a letter of approval for 1 year of spraying, with report back about the treatments and results, by the licensed applicator. Coleman/Chapnick motioned to approve the use of the horticultural oil as stated above; motion passed unanimously.

Additionally, Ms. McCormick reported that they had great success using vinegar to kill bittersweet and honeysuckle along the shoreline. A cut stem of the plant is placed in a bottle of vinegar and left in place which pulls the vinegar down into the roots of the plant. They attempted this with false indigo, with only limited success, and it's proving more

difficult to control.

Commission Business (cont.):

Ms. Grossman presented the plant list (6 roses, 15 solomon seal, 20 christmas ferns) for Bed 6 in **Spy Pond Park**. This should take place on Sept. 6, at 1-4pm. She also asked if someone from the Conservation Commission were available on that date, to help mark the locations of where the plants go and supervise the planting by volunteers. Ms. Grossman also asked if it was ok to water these plants with pond water, by hand.

Ms. Grossman met with the Parks Department about the larger erosion control project and it could take 5-10 years to budget and construct this project. They are asking if the Conservation Commission can help secure funding for the design phase of the project. Ms. Beckwith doesn't currently know of a grant, but will inquire in the Planning Dept and the other friends' groups. Possibly a trails grant from the state would be applicable.

Ms. Grossman also provided photographs of recent damage by overland flow to the stabilized aggregate paths, which are slated to be repaired on Monday 8/11. She asked if the small amount of path material that washed into the pond, could be removed. Ms. Beckwith described this as hand work, with a bucket and shovel. The Commission decided that the contractor could remove the gravel/sand peninsula washed into the pond from the recent storm.

Ms. Grossman expressed greater concern that this erosion was a result of the stormdrain controls that were newly placed along Mass Ave for the reconstruction project, up Pond Lane. She asked if there should be a meeting to discuss this with MassDOT. Ms. Beckwith said she did forward this item to our town liaison with that project, the Town Engineer. Ms. Grossman asked if the possibly the storm drain might need inspection and replacement.

Mr. Tirone proposed composing a comment letter to MassDOT, and he would let the rest of the Commission edit this statement. The Commission discussed talking to the Town Engineer about the storm drains on Pond Lane.

Mr. Ohmart and Mr. Tabacynski presented the new sign drafts to the Commission for the **ACROSS Lexington** project at Arlington's Great Meadows. These signs more clearly indicate the properties that are owned by the Town of Arlington and Arlington's partnership in the project. Coleman/Connors motioned to approve the new signs and a letter of approval to the Arlington Board of Selectmen (with copy to Karen Lundgren, Lexington Conservation Administrator) to be reviewed and approved at our next meeting; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. D.White reported that there is a new Eagle scout project to repair and/or replace all the **signs and kiosk** at Arlington's Great Meadows.

Mr. Stevens had sent out the **Enforcement policy** for review. Mr. Tirone thought there

might be examples of this in the other two towns he works for. Ms. Coleman and Ms. Chapnick will then edit the draft.

Ms. Beckwith sent the **Filing Fee review** information to the Commission. They will provide more detailed feedback, but in general the sentiment was to simplify the categories and lower the proposed increases.

Ms. Beckwith asked for a clarification to the edited Wetland and Floodplain overlay that will be forwarded to the Building Department for their use in **referring projects** to the Conservation Commission. Commission recommended using the 100 foot Buffer Zone for the stormwater basin that conveys Reeds Brook through McClenen Park.

Ms. Beckwith presented three **draft permits** for review:

Connors/Coleman motioned to approve the edited permit for 91-251 (Mt. Pleasant columbarium); motion passed unanimously.

Chapnick/DWhite motioned to approve the edited permit for 91-245 (Mystic River Oil Spill); motion passed unanimously.

Connors/Coleman motioned to approve the edited permit for 91-252 (14 Lake Shore Dr); motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator